

## **REMARKS**

By this Amendment, Applicant amends claim 1 to incorporate allowable subject matter of claim 4, and cancels claim 4 without any prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter thereof. Applicant also amends claims 5-8 to correct claim dependency. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3, and 5-8 will be pending.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 4-8 as being dependent a rejected base claim, but indicated that claims 4-8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0039852 to Roche et al. in view of either U.S. Patent No. 6,866,744 to Miya et al. or U.S. Patent No. 5,948,983 to Gogol, Jr. et al.<sup>1</sup>

Applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out allowable subject matter of claims 4-8. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's objection and rejection. However, to expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate allowable subject matter of claim 4. Therefore, independent claim 1 is allowable for at least including the allowable subject matter of claim 4. Further, because claims 3 and 5-8 depend from claim 1, claims 3 and 5-8 are also allowable for at least as being dependent from an allowable base claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection of claims 1 and 3 and the objection to claims 5-8.

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<sup>1</sup> The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

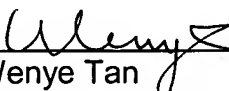
Applicant respectfully requests that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 1, 3, and 5-8 in condition for allowance, and the timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 27, 2006

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